

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIE-00 AID-05 EB-08 AF-08 ARA-06

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TAGS: UN, EAID, EFIN, EAGR, OCON

SUBJECT: COORDINATED DEMARCHE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON THE NEED
FOR SECRET BALLOT IN DETERMINING THE PERMANENT SEAT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

REF (A) STATE 066248, (B) ROME 4864

1. WE INFORMED REPRESENTATIVES OF AUSTRALIA, CANADA, GERMANY,
JAPAN, AND UNITED KINGDOM FRIDAY MARCH 25 OF U.S. WILLINGNESS
TO TAKE PART IN THE COORDINATED DEMARCHE, AND OF OTHER POINTS
MADE IN REFERENCE A. THEY ARE REPORTING TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS,
AND HOPEFULLY SOME OF THE OTHER GOVERNMENTS WILL ALSO STRESS
AS WE PROPOSE THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY RATIFICATION TO PUT IFAD
INTO OPERATION. ONE SUGGESTED MODIFICATION IN THE OUTLINE FOR THE
REPRESENTATIONS HAS BEEN WORKED OUT (PARA 3 BELOW).

2. IN MEETING THURSDAY AFTERNOON, GERMAN REPRESENTATIVE HAD INDI-
CATED HIS GOVERNMENT WAS ALREADY IN PROCESS OF SENDING OUT
CIRCULAR INSTRUCTIONS. JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVE, DESPITE HIS EARLIER
MISGIVINGS, HAD REPORTED HIS GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL TO MAKE
REPRESENTATIONS TO BRAZIL, BUT STIPULATED THAT THE
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REPRESENTATIONS SHOULD BE MADE IN ROME. (COMMENT: THIS MAY BE
EQUALLY OR PERHAPS EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE THAN REPRESENTATIONS
TO BRAZILIA, SINCE BRAZILIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO BRITO IS
ASSUMING CHAIRMANSHIP OF GROUP-77 HERE, AND HIS ROLE AS
REPRESENTING A GOVERNMENT NOT A MEMBER OF PREPARATORY
COMMISSION WILL BE LARGELY A PERSONAL BEHIND-THE-SCENES
NEGOTIATING ROLE.)

3. THURSDAY AFTERNOON MEETING WAS CONVENED BECAUSE MINGAZZINI OF ITALY HAD RETURNED FROM BRUSSELS AND PARIS AND COULD BE BROUGHT INTO CONSULTATIONS (ALTHOUGH IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED THAT ITALY WILL NOT TAKE PART IN THE COORDINATED DEMARCHE LEST THAT RAISE DIRECTLY THE QUESTION OF ITALIAN COMPETITION WITH IRAN FOR THE PERMANENT SEAT). GROUP AGREED TENTATIVELY TO MODIFY THE OUTLINE OF THE REPRESENTATIONS (PARA 3 REF B) TO TRY TO MEET SWEDISH OBJECTIONS THAT THE PRESENT FORMULATION RAN COUNTER TO SWEDISH OPPOSITION GENERALLY TO SECRET BALLOTS AND THEY WOULD HAVE TO SPEAK UP AGAINST IT IF IT APPEARED IN THAT FORM IN THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION MEETING. SWEDISH OBJECTION WAS TO THIRD SENTENCE OF OUTLINE IN PARA 3 REF B QTE THERE ARE CERTAIN ISSUES OF A SENSITIVE KIND WHERE DECISIONS SHOULD BE BY SECRET BALLOT, AND WE WOULD FEEL THAT THE CHOICE OF THE SEAT OF THE PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS WOULD BE ONE OF THESE QTE. THE GROUP SUGGESTED THIS COULD BE MODIFIED TO READ QTE WE FEEL THAT THE CHOICE OF THE PERMANENT SEAT IS AN ISSUE FOR WHICH THE RULES OF PROCEDURE SHOULD PROVIDE FOR A SECRET BALLOT QTE. THE SWEDE TOLD US FRIDAY AFTERNOON HE BELIEVED HIS GOVERNMENT COULD ACCEPT THAT FORMULATION.

4. LESS PROGRESS WAS MADE IN ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT POSSIBLE NEW LANGUAGE FOR RULE 35 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE GOVERNING COUNCIL DEALING WITH THIS QUESTION. SEVERAL POSSIBLE FORMULATIONS WERE MADE, BUT THERE IS LITTLE USE IN REPORTING THEM SINCE THE SWEDE TOLD US AFTERWARD THAT THEY MAKE THINGS WORSE RATHER THAN BETTER FOR HIS GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS BASICALLY OPPOSED TO SECRET BALLOTS EXCEPT FOR ELECTIONS. THE SUGGESTION (PARA 3, REF A) THAT THIS ISSUE BE DEFERRED TO THE END OF THE PREPARATORY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMISSION MEETING HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNTRIES MAKING THE DEMARCHE AND BY SWEDEN, (PREPARATORY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN AL-SUDEARY IS STILL AWAY, ALTHOUGH EXPECTED MOMENTARILY).

5. THE IRANIAN ELIMINATION PROCEDURE PROPOSAL WAS ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE THURSDAY AFTERNOON MEETING. ALTHOUGH THE CATEGORY I COUNTRIES ARE OPPOSED TO THIS PROPOSAL, THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION AS TO WHETHER IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO MODIFY IT SUFFICIENTLY TO BE ACCEPTABLE, IF NECESSARY IN ARRIVING AT AN AGREEMENT. THE UK REPRESENTATIVE PERSONALLY SUGGESTED THAT ELIMINATION PROCEDURE MIGHT BE CONTINUED ONLY DOWN TO TWO RATHER THAN TO ONE CANDIDATE (FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL ELECTION SYSTEM WAS CITED AS A PRECEDENT), OR THAT AFTER A SET SMALL NUMBER OF INCONCLUSIVE VOTES, IT BE REQUIRED THAT THE ISSUE VOTED ON WOULD BE WHETHER TO CONTINUE THE BALLOTING OR TO POSTPONE IT TO A LATER DATE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT ENABLE US TO KEEP

THE OTHER COUNTRIES MAKING THE DEMARCHE INFORMED OF THE
ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES TO WHICH WE MAY MAKE REPRESENTATIONS, TO
FACILITATE COORDINATION.GARDNER

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